



CALPEEK

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P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

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CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON TREASURER'S RACE.

Editor's note: In a down-ballot primary such as for CA Treasurer, **endorsements** carry a great deal of weight. Here's our update & analysis...

...GOP Assemblymen Curt Pringle of Orange Co. and Jan Goldsmith of San Diego have been locked in an increasingly close but nevertheless very nasty primary battle to replace Matt Fong. But the recent endorsement of Pringle by Gov. Pete Wilson(R) threatens to change the dynamics of this race in Pringle's favor, which certainly *delights* the probable Demo primary winner, former CDP chair and Sacto developer Phil Angelides...

...With the race being dead even in the last series of polls, and with both within striking distance of one another in terms of fundraising, here's what Wilson's support of Pringle will mean: 1) GOP donors on Wilson's *fundraising list* will get a letter in the next few days from the governor urging support for Pringle; 2) Pringle will use Wilson's name in both tv ads (scheduled for the last weeks of the campaign) and on 5 major GOP slate cards where Pringle has a slot. The combined slates have a circulation of 7.1 million. Goldsmith is on 5 slates with a combined circulation of 5 million. FYI: despite all the negatives about Wilson in the past, these days his numbers are better and he still has lots of clout with likely GOP primary voters...

...Can Goldsmith overcome this endorsement? Hard to tell. The second best endorsement would have been Fong, but he too is in Pringle's camp. There was never any chance Wilson would back Goldsmith. Some believe Wilson's endorsement of Pringle was *payback* because Goldsmith backs the **Indians** in their dispute with the governor over casino gaming. The key thing for Goldsmith is money. He needs to find a *financial*

angel in a hurry. Do the Indians have *Silver Wings*???

...On the Demo side, while Angelides is expected to win without much trouble, he has paid to be on most of the Demo slate cards. His two Demo opponents, South Gate City Treas. Albert Robles and Culver City resident Mervin Evans, just don't have the resources. FYI: the campaign team for Angelides is now complete. Media consultants will be Sid & Mark Galanty, while polling will be handled by Fairbank Maslin & Maullin. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: NEW FIELD POLL GIVES DAVIS A BIG BOOST IN DEMO PARTY CONTEST FOR GOVERNOR.

Editor's note: Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) has *two dates* to remember this election cycle: 1) the day a court ruled Prop. 208 invalid, thus lifting contribution & spending limits; and 2) **April 29th** - the day the new Field Poll came out showing him vaulting into the lead ahead of *deep pocketed* Demos Al Checchi and U.S. Rep. Jane Harman. Here's our update & analysis...

...Here are the numbers among likely voters. Next to the Field Poll we've put up the *L.A. Times* poll taken April 12th...

	Field(4/29)	LAT(4/12)
Dan Lungren(R)	27%	28%
Al Checchi(D)	17%	22%
Gray Davis(D)	19%	13%
Jane Harman(D)	11%	24%

...It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that Checchi's negative ads have caused Harman's numbers to *crash*. Bottomline: even though voters complain about negative political ads, they work. Some sources (not all) think Harman's *low-keyed response* to Checchi's attacks have hurt her almost as much as the ads themselves. Because of the attack ads, Checchi's negatives also have increased, although not as much. *The*

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beneficiary: Davis, who has been not been attacked. Davis' own tracking polls by Fairbank Maslin Maullin (taken almost daily/250 likely voters) shows almost the same thing as the Field Poll. In terms of *favorable* vs. *unfavorable*, here's what Davis' tracking poll shows:

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Checchi	25%	36%
Davis	35%	24%
Harman	17%	43%

...And Davis is the only Demo who beats Lungren in the 1-on-1 match up: Davis **43%** vs. Lungren **39%**; Checchi **38%** vs. Lungren **43%**; and Harman **37%** vs. Lungren **45%**...

...The new Field Poll comes *one month* before the primary and at a time when Checchi is coming under increased scrutiny. His recent comment that he'd never sacrifice his children's future by sending them to a public school has **not** gone over well with the public. Harman *spinmaster* Kam Kuwata told **Calpeek** that Checchi's statement "gets the *Marie Antoinette* award for the week -- just a total lack of sensitivity." Others are even more critical, saying Checchi's statement was arrogant and that it showed Checchi with a tin ear. Still others say that while the statement was a huge mistake, it may not cost Checchi that much unless Harman and Davis go after him with paid tv ads. Even Checchi supporter were taken aback. One Checchi supporter told **Calpeek**, "I wish he'd been a little more diplomatic."...

...Don't look for the GOP to go after Checchi about his lack of trust in public schools, because whether intended or not, Checchi's statement has given comfort to those who support school vouchers. Checchi himself is opposed to vouchers. This subject will undoubtedly be revisited during the first gubernatorial debate May 13th, featuring Lungren and the 3 Demos...

...FYI: Checchi lives in Beverly Hills, whose school district is considered one of the best in the U.S. And Checchi's statement came just days before El Camino Real High School (LAUSD) won the nat'l academic decathlon --- the 3rd L.A. school to win that title in the last 5 years. However, the *Most Embarrassed Award* goes to State Schools Chief Delaine Eastin, who did an ad for Checchi. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON HOT U.S. HOUSE RACES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some of the hot U.S. House primary races in Calif...

☒ **41st CD** - With the NRCC officially neutral, U.S. Rep. Jay Kim(R-Diamond Bar) continues to fight for his political life against 2 GOP rivals: Assemblyman Gary Miller of Diamond Bar and O.C. Dep. DA Pete Pierce. A third GOPer, Jack Healy, is on the ballot, but has stopped campaigning and is backing Pierce. Kim faces an uphill battle to retain his seat because of his guilty plea on misdemeanor charges of accepting illegal campaign funds from his first campaign in 1992. In addition, the House Ethics Cmt. has decided to expand its probe to include the congressman's reelection efforts in '94, '96 and this year...

...Despite all the bad news, there are some who believe Kim might have a shot IF Miller & Pierce badly split the anti-Kim vote. Others don't agree, noting a recent NRCC poll which puts Kim's approval rating at a low **23%**. Miller is the frontrunner, with *deep pockets* and many endorsements, including AG Dan Lungren, who urged Kim to resign. But sources believe Pierce could catch Miller if he can raise the money. Pierce is walking daily and he recently won the CRA endorsement (it was more of a payback because Miller ran a nasty campaign against CRA favorite Dick Mountjoy several years ago). Pierce is a pro-life Reagan conservative, who worked in the RR & Bush Admins. (1987-89), before attending the Univ. of Virginia law school. He's been with the O.C. DA's office 5 years...

☒ **20th CD** - U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Hanford) should not have any problem with 2 unknown and underfunded Demo rivals this June. Dooley won't hire professional staff until after the primary. On the GOP side, '96 primary candidate Cliff Unruh is battling Pixle, farmer/school board member Devin Nunes. Unruh did surprisingly well against a much stronger Trice Harvey in '96, carrying the Fresno part of the CD by 9 points. Source rate Unruh a favorite over Nunes...

☒ **42nd CD** - This is U.S. Rep. George Brown's home turf. For a while it looked as though Assemblyman Joe Baca(D-San Bernardino) would challenge Brown in the primary, but Baca had second thoughts

and is now running for the State Senate. Brown is always a GOP target and '98 will be no different. On the GOP side there are 3 rivals: businessman Rob Guzman, who is making his 4th run at Brown; attorney Elia Pirozzi, who has most of the key endorsements; and a Bernard McClay. A key GOP player in the San Berdu area, Sen. Jim Brulte, is still neutral. Our sources are split: some give an edge to Pirozzi, while others think Guzman's residual name ID and *deep pockets* will carry him...

☒ **34th CD** - With the departure of veteran U.S. Rep. Esteban Torres(D), this Demo primary has turned into a ho-hum *turf war* between popular Assemblywoman Grace Napolitano and Torres' COS and son-in-law Jamie Casso. The Kamber Group is Napolitano's lead consultant, while SG&A Campaigns works for Casso. So far, this primary is nothing more than an *endorsement war*, with Casso being backed by most of the Latino CA congressional members, while Napolitano has many members of the CA Legislature in her corner. Both share an endorsement from L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti, but Napolitano also has backing from L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn and L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block. She also has backing from a number of law enforcement groups: COPS, CCLEA and the L.A. Co. Professional Peace Officers Assn. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's another update on initiatives set for Calif.'s June & November ballots...

☒ **Prop. 224** - This is the so-called *Competitive Bidding* initiative placed on the ballot by the Professional Engineers in CA Govt.(PECG), whose 6,000 members mostly work for CalTrans. The NO side, which goes by the name of Taxpayers Against 224 (the original name was Taxpayers Fed Up with More State Bureaucracy), is on radio in the L.A. and S.F. markets and will eventually go statewide. And with a war chest of \$2.4 million, NO on 224 will be on tv very soon. In the *editorial wars*, the San Jose Mercury News has come out NO on 224. FYI: The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. has threatened to take legal action against YES on 224 for what it claims is the unauthorized and illicit use of Joel Fox's name and the HJTA to falsely imply an endorsement. Things are getting a little testy...

☒ **Prop. 223 - *Childrens' Rights 2000***, the United Teachers of L.A. front which sponsored and put Prop. 223 on the June 2nd ballot, will produce and distribute a "YES on 223" slate featuring photos of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan on the front, with Al Checchi on the inside. Also included in this L.A. County-area slate will be #4 District BOE candidate Tyrone Vahedi(D), who is the campaign coordinator for YES on 223. Consultant Jill Barad is the slate maker...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON HOT ASSEMBLY RACES.

Editor's note: Here is Part III in our continuing coverage of hot CA State Assembly primary races...

☒ **68th AD** - In this battle to replace Curt Pringle, our sources see Garden Grove Councilman Ken Maddox (who is also an Tustin PD officer) and Westminster attorney John Kellogg in the top tier in this field of 5 Republicans. Mike Matsuda is the lone Demo in this *safe* GOP district. In the 2nd tier is another Garden Grove councilman, Ho Chung, who has money, but no key endorsements. Westminster Councilwoman Joy Neugebauer, who once ran against Pringle, is also in the 2nd tier. Assemblymembers Pringle, Ackerman and Brewer are backing Maddox, while Assemblymembers Baugh and Morrissey, plus Sen. Rob Hurtt are with Kellogg. Very close race...

☒ **53rd AD** - Demo Debra Bowen of Torrance has held this seat for 6 years, despite a registration which leans GOP. The lone Republican is conservative Bill Eggers. When the early scrambling started, Eggers was not considered the favorite. That honor belonged to Bill Beverly. But he screwed up royally when he failed to turn in the proper number of signatures. It was not only a big break for Eggers, but the Demos as well, because Beverly would have been a formidable candidate. On the Demo side, there are 7 rivals. Torrance Councilman George Nakano is alone in the top tier, but 3 other Demos are pressing hard to challenge Nakano, who has been endorsed by Speaker Villaraigosa. In the 2nd tier are school board member Zeke Zeidler, Redondo Councilman Bob Pinzler, who has a powerful ally in L.A. Councilwoman Ruth Galanter; and well funded attorney Chris O'Brien. All these candidates have hired campaign pros. Our sources say the Demo primary will tighten in the weeks ahead...

☒ **60th AD** - This is the San Gabriel Valley AD now belonging to Gary Miller(R-Diamond Bar), who is giving up this safe GOP seat to run for congress. There are 4 Republicans battling for the nomination and our sources say this is Diamond Bar businessman Mike Radlovic's race to win or lose. Although you can't win on endorsements alone, Radlovic's got a ton and has lots of IOUs. He's the chair of the influential Lincoln Club. Walnut Councilman Bob Pacheco is Radlovic's #1 rival. Also in the 2nd tier with Pacheco are Diamond Bar Councilman Bob Huff and school board member Norman Hsu. The lone Demo is West Covina Councilman Ben Wong...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

May 4	Last day to register to vote in June primary.
May 8	11 a.m., L.A. Co. Sheriffs Debate, Century Cable TV studios, Santa Monica.
May 13	Gubernatorial debate sponsored by the L.A. Times, Los Angeles.
May 21	Campaign reports are due.
May 26	Last day to apply for absentee ballot.
June 2	CA Primary Election.
June 8	Assemblyman Scott Baugh goes on trial in Orange Co.
June 26-28	Nat'l Women's Political Caucus of Calif., 1998 convention, Hotel Inter-Continental, L.A.
July 20-23	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures, annual meeting, Las Vegas.
July 23-25	RNC Summer meeting, New York City.
July 27	Last day for initiatives to qualify for the Nov. '98 ballot.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Inglewood Passes Tax Hikes to Lure NFL -***

Voters in Inglewood's Apr. 28th special election approved 3 separate tax plans --- all aimed at generating income to attract an NFL football franchise. There are 41,000 registered voters in the city, but only 4,000 actually voted. Each measure got a little over 60%. Consultant Rick Taylor pumped out 5 pieces of mail in the final two weeks for client Hollywood Park...

■ ***Susan McDougal's Website - The Stand Up to Starr*** legal defense fund set up on behalf of convicted Whitewater defendant Susan McDougal is up and running at www.stopstarr.org...

■ ***San Jose Mayor's Race*** - A major debate is set for 9 p.m., May 11th between three of the top candidates for mayor: former county Sup. Ron Gonzales, councilwoman Pat Dando and businesswoman Kathy Chavez Napoli. Even though the candidates aren't supposed to sport party labels, everyone knows Dando is a GOPer and Gonzales is a Demo. A *Mercury News* survey taken in mid-March showed Gonzales out front with **19%**, Dando with **7%** and Napoli with **2%**. The leader in this old survey was undecided with **62%**. *Termed out* Mayor Susan Hammer and 5 councilmembers are backing Gonzales and his team would like to win it outright in the June primary. However, Napoli, who ran against Hammer in '94 and got 25% of the vote, could get just enough votes to force a runoff between Dando and Gonzales. The campaign had been peaceful until very recently when a Dando mailer accused former Sunnyvale Mayor Gonzales of being a *carpetbagger*. Insiders knew that *zinger* was coming...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● A sad note: Veteran L.A. Community College trustee Kenneth Washington, 75, has died. R.I.P...

● Leslie Goodman, former deputy COS of communications to Gov. Wilson, has joined Neslon Communications in Sacto as a strategic consultant...

● Former LAPD office Quentin Villanueva is CA's new secretary of the Youth & Adult Correctional Agency...

● S.F.-based Staton/Hughes has hired Deborah Barron, Alex Handler, Ginger Lubkowitz & Lesley Kim...

● SCAG's Govt. Affairs mgr., Eric Roth, is leaving the regional association to go "Hollywood." He's agent hunting and has written two scripts...

● Brenda Leer, former regional director of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, has joined Nelson Communications in the firm's Irvine office. Also joining the firm's campaign division as a VP is consultant Mark Thompson...